UNITED STATES
COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY BOARD

COMSEC 8-/3
17 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS, UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY BOARD

SUBJECT: Final Report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

REFERENCES:

25X1

Inclosed is the final report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc
Committee which offers for the Board's consideration two alternate
recommendations (paragraphs 5. a. & b.). Members are requested
to review these recommendations and indicate their vote on the
attached sheet. All votes are requested to be returned to the ExecSec
by Friday, 16 April 71.

Also attached are the comments received from the Members on
the Draft Recommendation of the Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee,
circulated to the Board on 4 Feb 71 for comment (COMSEC 8-WG-2).

. This memorandum may be declassified upon removal of Incl 2.

25X1

Executive Secretary

3 Incls:
  1. Computer Security A.H.C. Rpt
  2. Vote/Comments on Draft Recommendation ~~less Incl 2~~
  3. Vote Sheet ~~less Incl 3~~

25X1

USCSB
UNITED STATES
COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY BOARD

11 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY BOARD

SUBJECT: Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

REFERENCES:

25X1

    Inclosed is the report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc
Committee which is forwarded in response to your recommendation
of 7 January 71.

    The Ad Hoc Committee Members wish to express their
appreciation for the cooperation and efforts of the staff of the
Office of the Executive Secretary, USCSB, which contributed
significantly to the accomplishments of the Committee's tasks
in a timely fashion.

    Upon acceptance of this report, we consider the Committee
to be dissolved unless otherwise directed.

25X1

                              Chairman
                Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

Incl:
  a/s

> NOTE: The Chairman, USCSB
> accepted the Computer Security
> Ad Hoc Committee's Final
> report on 16 March 71. P.A.Pitts

Incl 1

11

USCSB
UNITED STATES
COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY BOARD

COMSEC 8-WG-3
3 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS, UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS
   SECURITY BOARD

SUBJECT: Report of the Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

REFERENCES: a.

                        b.

25X1

1. The Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee, established on 7 January 71 (Reference a.) was charged with two tasks:

   a. Consider the jurisdiction of the USCSB in the field of computer security, and,

   b. Solicit comments from the entire Membership of the Board on this subject.

2. Accordingly, the Ad Hoc Committee met on 4 February 71 and drafted a paper (Reference b.) which reflected the views of the Committee Members to the effect that the USCSB is a proper national forum to address the problem of computer security and recommended sponsorship by USCSB of a standing committee to resolve the problem with representatives disciplined in the areas of computer technology, communications, and security. This paper was circulated to the Board Members for comments.

3. The majority of the Board Members had provided comments at the time this report was prepared. The comments received covered the spectrum of possibilities with four agencies concurring, two concurring with recommendations, several essentially maintaining the status quo, and two non-concurring with comments. Comments or recommendations included modification of the National Security Council Communications Security Directive to reflect the Board's authority in the subject area, coordination of any Board action with the Office of Telecommunications Policy, handling on a joint basis with USIB, and remaining essentially as is with the Board concerning itself only with COMSEC and EMSEC.

There does appear to be general agreement on two points, i.e., that there is a need for a national policy on computer security and that the Board has a role in computer security in the areas of COMSEC and EMSEC.

4. Discussion of the comments by the Ad Hoc Committee indicated the following:

a. That certain departments or agencies may not be organizationally structured to allow for easy resolution of a question of USCSB jurisdiction.

b. That others had standards for computer security ready for distribution and look upon reference of this subject to another authority with mixed emotions.

c. That there appears to be an absence of common understanding of the extent of COMSEC in modern-day systems. COMSEC has been classically interpreted as the application of cryptographic equipment to communication links. Today, however, the security of information in tele-processing systems often employs computers to authenticate and direct classified information--the techniques of which are essentially COMSEC.

d. That there is no necessity to modify the Board's charter since the Board's role needs no expansion--we merely wish to note that COMSEC impacts on a wider base than previously.

5. In view of the above, the Ad Hoc Committee offers for the Board's consideration two alternate recommendations:

a. Adopt the majority view of the Board Members that the Board is the proper forum to sponsor the effort at the national level to resolve the problems of computer security through the establishment of a standing committee made up of members and OTP, with support from others disciplined in computer technology, communications, and security, or,

b. Establish liaison with USIB for the purpose of organizing a joint group to resolve the problem of computer security with partici-pation by OTP as the joint group deems necessary.

25X1

Chairman
Computer Security Ad Hoc Committee

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